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Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.17

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 12 of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.17, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to make provision for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa and its subsidiary bodies, including the seventh ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

2. It is noted that operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution deals with administrative and budgetary matters. In this connection, it is recalled that, by section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly:

(a) Reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

(b) Reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

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(c) Expressed its concern at the tendency of its substantive Committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters;

(d) Invited the Secretary-General to provide all intergovernmental bodies with the required information regarding procedures for administrative and budgetary matters.

3. As regards the substance of the proposal, the conference servicing of the Convention bodies in the biennium 2004-2005 from within the United Nations regular budget resources would require an amount of $1.7 million on a full-cost basis at current rates.

4. It should be noted in connection with the above that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention customarily reserves specific additional funds, as a contingency provision, in the context of approval of the biennial programme budgets of the Convention, for use in the event that the General Assembly decides not to provide resources in the United Nations programme budget for conference servicing of the Convention's meetings. For the biennium 2002-2003, for example, such provision was approved by decision 4/COP.5, of the Conference of the Parties.[1]

[1] See ICCD/COP(5)/11/Add.1 for a full text.